

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6355

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11118

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR, PF, PG

SUBJECT: SINO-SOVIET-VIETNAMESE TRIANGLE

REF: MOSCOW 10712

1. CITING CZECHOSLOVAK PAPER RUDE PRAVO ARTICLE ON "THE MAOISTS AND THE SYSTEM OF COLLECTIVE SECURITY," BOTH PRAVDA AND KRASNAYA ZVEZDA JULY 14 REFER TO "INCIDENTS ON CHINA'S BORDERS WITH NEIGHBORING STATES,...OCCUPATION BY CHINESE FORCES OF ISLANDS THAT BELONG TO VIETNAM,...OTHER PROVACATIVE PRESS HAS NEARLY GONE ALL THE WAY (IF INDIRECTLY) IN ACKNOWLEDGING VIETNAMESE SOVEREIGNTY OVER ISLANDS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE LITERARY GAZETTE ARTICLE IN 1974.

2. WHEN QUERIED ABOUT RECENT SOVIET MEDIA COMMENTS DEALING WITH ASIAN TERRITORIAL DISPUTES WITH PRC, CHINESE FIRST SECRETARY
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LIU KUANG-CHIH ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOVIETS HAVE STEPPED UP SUPPORT FOR OTHER ASIANS IN RECENT MONTHS, BUT THAT PRINTING ALLEGATIONS

THAT VIETNAMESE OWN THE ISLANDS IS REALLY "NOTHING NEW," DATING
BACK TWO YEARS. ALLEGATIONS ALSO CONFLICT WITH SOVIET MAPS ALL
OF WHICH MARK THE ISLANDS AS CHINESE, SO THERE IS A "CONTRADICTION"
IN OFFICIAL SOVIET POSTURE WHICH LIU MILDLY ASCRIBED TO "POLITICAL
REASONS." (LIU WAS SIMILARLY LOW-KEY ABOUT VISIT OF VIETNAMESE
"NEED THE HELP" SINCE U.S. PULLED OUT. REFERRING TO "CENTURIES"
OF SINO-VIETNAMESE PROXIMITY AND ATTENDANT PROBLEMS, HE ADDED
THAT CHINESE "UNDERSTAND" WHAT VIETNAMESE ARE DOING WITH SOVIETS.
OF COURSE, HE SAID, NGHI COMES TO US, TOO.)
MATLOCK

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